

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

**Proclaim the Week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 as Health Education Week In Los Angeles County**

The Los Angeles County (County) health education workforce provides residents, health professionals, elected officials, and others with information, training, and evidence-based services and tools that promote healthy living and prevent or manage disease and injury. Health educators work collaboratively to assess community needs and plan, implement, and evaluate appropriate interventions for diverse populations.

This year the Department of Public Health would like to promote the week of December 2<sup>nd</sup> as Health Education Week in Los Angeles County. Its purpose is to honor the dedication and service of the countywide health education workforce and call attention to this year's theme, *Adolescent Health: Planting Seeds for a Healthier Nation*.

The leading causes of death and disability among the County's adolescents are related to preventable health risk behaviors including, but not limited to injury/violence, tobacco/drug use, and unsafe sex. Additionally, health risk behaviors adopted during

**- MORE -**

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2012**  
**PAGE 2**

adolescence are linked to various health outcomes in later life, including obesity, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, smoking, drug use, and depression, and accounts for a major portion of preventable chronic diseases that cost the U.S. economy more than \$1 trillion annually. Consequently, the County has a vital interest in promoting and establishing healthy behaviors among adolescents.

Improving adolescent health requires government agencies, community organizations, schools, neighborhoods, businesses and other stakeholders to work together to develop a comprehensive set of evidence-based policies, systems and environmental strategies. The health education workforce is uniquely positioned to work with schools, communities, and parent groups to promote adolescent health.

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** proclaim the week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 as Health Education Week in Los Angeles County to promote the health and safety of adolescents and encourage all individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness of adolescent health and promote policy, system, and environmental changes to empower young people to make healthy choices.

**## ##**